UNCLASSIFIED

Department of State

INCOMING TELEGRAM

(16)

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ACTION ARA-16

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 SPRS-02 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 COME-00
AID-07 PC-05 SY-05 SYE-00 DCT-02 ACDA-12 OC-06
CCO-00 USSS-00 OPR-02 HA-06 /106 W
------------------102164 282340Z /70

O 281735Z NOV 80
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1325
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PAN//INTAFF
DIA WASHDC

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 SAN SALVADOR 8301

E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: PINT SHUM PINS PINR ES
SUBJECT: FDR LEADERSHIP ASSASSINATED

1. ON NOVEMBER 27 A MEETING OF THE DEMOCRATIC REVOLUTIONARY FRONT (FDR) WAS INTERRUPTED BY ARMED MEN WHO KIDNAPPED SIX OF ITS TOP LEADERSHIP. LATER IN THE DAY THE BODIES OF FOUR OF THOSE LEADERS (INITIALLY IDENTIFIED AS JUAN CHACON, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE POPULAR REVOLUTIONARY BLOC-BPR; 2 HUMBERTO MENDOZA, LEADER OF THE POPULAR LIBERATION MOVEMENT-ML2; ENRIQUE ESCOBAR BARRERA, IN-CONTRY LEADER OF THE NATIONAL REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT-MNR; DOROTEO HERNANDE, OF THE UNION OF SLUM DWELLERS-UPI, A MEMBER OF THE BPR) WERE DISCOVERED ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF SAN SALVADOR. ON THE MORNING OF NOVEMBER 28 RADIOS ARE REPORTING THE DISCOVERY OF THE BODY OF ENRIQUE ALVAREZ CORDOV, TITULAR HEAD OF THE FDR. THE WHEREABOUTS OF MANUEL FRANCO, HEAD OF THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC UNION (UDN) IS UNKNOWN. BELOW ARE STATEMENTS RELEASED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND BY THE RIGHTIST GROUP WHICH HAS TAKEN CREDIT FOR THE KILLINGS.
2. JRG COMMUNIQUE.
BEGIN TEXT.
TODAY THE GOVERNMENT LEARNED OF THE KIDNAPPING OF SOME POLITICAL LEADERS, A FACT WHICH AT FIRST SOME OF THE MEDIA WRONGLY CALLED A CAPTURE. THE ABOVE MENTIONED INCIDENT TOOK PLACE IN THE EXTERNADO OF SAN JOSE (COMMENT: A CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL.) IN THIS CAPITAL.
TODAY THE AUTHORITIES BEGAN A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION OF THE CASE AND THE FIRST RESULTS ARE THE FOLLOWING;
CONCERNING THE ABOVE MENTIONED KIDNAPPING THE RECTOR OF THE COLEGIO EXTERNADO SAN JOSE, THE JESUIT PRIEST JOSE SANTAMARIA, THE ACTING HEAD OF SOCORRO JURIJSCO OF THE ARCHBIOSHOPRIC, BORIS MARTINEZ, AND THE WATCHMAN JOSE ABDULIO TORREQUEARTINEZ WERE QUESTIONED.
THE INCIDENT TOOK PLACE APPROXIMATELY BETWEEN 9:00 A.M. AND 11:40 A.M. THE POLITICAL LEADERS HAD CALLED A PRESS CONFERENCE IN THAT PLACE WHICH IT IS SAID THEY HAD AGREED TO MOVE TO THE METROPOLITAN CHATHEDRAL.
AT 11:30 APPROXIMATELY 13 ARMED INDIVIDUALS ARRIVED

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/HR
REVIEWED BY _____ DATE 8 JUL 1982
RDS-3 or RD-3 (CIRCLE ONE)
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ENDORSE EXCISE _____
DECLASSIFY _____
RELEASE DENIED _____
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS _____

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UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 SAN SALVADOR 8301

IN TWO VEHICLES; A REO DATSUN PICK-UP AND A LARGE BLUE TRUCK.
ALL THE INDIVIDUALS, WHO ARRIVED ARMED, HAD THEIR FACES COVERD.
IN NONE OF THEIR DECLARATIONS DID THE WITNESSES MAKE REFERENCE
TO HAVING SEEN UNIFORMED PEOPLE.
IT IS CERTAIN THAT THIS ACTION WAS CARRIED OUT WITH THE OB-
JECTIVE OF WORSENING THE CLIMATE OF VIOLENCE THAT THE COUNTRY
IS EXPERIENCING, AGAINST THE WILL AND DESIRE FOR PEACE OF THE
SALVADORAN PEOPLE.
THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNING JUNTA DEMANDS THAT THE PLANNERS
AND EXCECUTORS OF THIS CRIME RESPECT THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF
THOSE KIDNAPPED AND THEIR MORAL AND PHYSICAL INTEGRITY.
FINALLY, THE GOVERNMENT CALLS ON THE MAKERS OF PUBLIC OPINION
AND THE CITIZENS IN GENERAL, IN ORDER TO AVOID COMPLICATING
THE SITUATION, TO ABSTAIN FROM SPREADING RUMORS OR SPECULATIONS
IN WHICH INSTITUTIONS OR PERSONS OUTSIDE THESE EVENTS MIGHT BE
IMPLICATED, WHICH WOULD ONLY SERVE TO AGGRAVATE THIS DELICATE
MATTER.
END TEXT.
3. RIGHTIST COMMUNIQUE. ACCORDING TO THE NEWSPAPERS, THE FOLLOWING
MESSAGE WAS RECEIVED FROM THE MAXIMILIANO HERNANDEZ MARTINEZ
ANTI-COMMUNIST BRIGADE.
BEGIN TEXT.
WE MAKE KNOWN TO THE CITIZENRY IN GENERAL: TODAY WE, A SQUADRON
OF THE GENERAL MAXIMILIANO HERNANDEZ MARTINEZ ANTI-COMMUNIST
BRIGADE, MAKE KNOWN OUR RESPONSIBILITY FOGGTHE JUST EXECUTION
OF THE COMMUNIST OF THE FDR: ENRIQUE ALVAREZ CORDOVA, JUAN CHACON
ENRIQUE BARRERA, MANUEL FRANCO AND HUMBERTO MENOOZA, FOR BEING
MATERIALLY AND INTELLECTUALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THOUSANDS OF
ASSASSINATIONS OF INNOCENT PEOPLE WHO DID NOT WANT TO BE COMMUNISTS.
WE ALSO WARN THE PRIESTS WHO HAVE AN AFFINITY FOR THE TERRORIST
MARXIST BANDS THAT THEY WILL HAVE THE SAME FATE IF THEY INSIST
IN THEIR SERMONS ON POISONING THE MINDS OF SALVADORAN YOUTH.
THE BRIGADE WILL CONTINUE THE JUST EXECUTIONS OF THE TRAITORS
TO OUR COUNTRY.
END TEXT.
4. FDR. ACCORDING TO ONE NEWSPAPER, AT AN AFTERNOON PRESS
CONFERENCE ON NOVEMBER 27 LEADERS OF THE FDR ACCUSED THE "MILI-
TARY-CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT JUNTA AND THE ARMED FORCES" OF RESPONSI-
BILITY FOR THE KIDNAPPINGS.
5. COMMENT: WE NOTE THAT THE ASSASSINS IDENTIFIED ONLY FIVE VICTIMS,
MOSRTHAT ONE OF THE BODIES WHICH APPEARED WAS NOT ON THEIR LIST.
THE MOST LIKELY EXPLANATION AT THIS POINT IS THAT THEY MAY NOT
HAVE RECOGNIZED HERMANDE, WHO WAS NOT A WELL-KNOWN FIGURE, AND
THAT FRANCO'S BODY WILL SOON APPEAR. A SECOND POSSIBLE EXPLA-
NATION OF INCONSISTENCY IS THAT OF A HSTILY CONCOCTED COVER-
UP TO DRAW ATTENTION AWAY FROM ACCUSATIONS OF DIRECT SECURITY
FORCE INVOLVEMENT.